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REMARKS

These amendments have been made to further comply with the proper format for the application previously submitted.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification:

The heading at page 1, line 1 has been deleted as follows:

[Description]

The title of the application at page 1, line 2 has been amended as follows:

-- SURFACE STRUCTURED LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE WITH IMPROVED
CURRENT COUPLING--

The following heading has been inserted at page 1, before line 3 as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, has been amended as follows:

--The invention concerns a light-emitting diode [as set forth in the preamble of Claim 1].

In particular, the invention concerns a structured-surface light-emitting diode in which, to improve the uniformity of current supply, an electrical contact layer has a lateral structure by means of which substantially uniform coupling of the electrical current into the light-emitting diode can be achieved.--

Paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1 has been amended as follows:

[Claims] --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16 has been deleted.

[The object is accomplished by means of the characterizing features of Claim 1]

In the claims:

Claims 1-9 have been amended as follows:

--1. A light-emitting diode[(100)], comprising

- a semiconductor layer structure including a substrate [(10)] and at least one light-generating layer [(20)] formed on said substrate [(10)] and one transparent current-spreading layer [(30)] deposited on said light-generating layer [(20)],
- a first electrical contact layer on the back of said substrate, and
- a second electrical contact layer [(50)] disposed on said current-spreading layer [(30)], characterized in that
- the top surface of said current-spreading layer [(30)] has vertical structuring [(40)] to improve the decoupling of light, and
- said second electrical contact layer [(50)] has a lateral structure by means of which substantially uniform coupling of the electrical current into said current-spreading layer [(30)] can be achieved.

2. The light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 1, characterized in that

- said second electrical contact layer [(50)] is a central, in particular circular or square contact surface [(51)] and, arranged about said central contact surface [(51)], a contact structure [(52; 53; 54)] that is rotationally symmetrical with respect to the center point of said central contact surface [(51)] and is composed of relatively narrow contact webs [(52; 53)] and/or contact points [(54)].

3. The light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 2, characterized in that

- the rotational symmetry is a symmetry represented by a whole number and in particular matches the rotational symmetry of the light-emitting diode.

4. The light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 1, characterized in that

said second electrical contact layer [(5)] is realized as continuous.

5. The light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 1, characterized in that

- said second electrical contact layer [(50)] is discontinuous and is interconnected by a layer of transparent, light-conducting material.

6. The light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 1,
characterized in that said second electrical contact layer [(50)] is arranged on structured and/or unstructured portions of said current-spreading layer.

7. The light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 1,
characterized in that
- the vertical structuring [(40)] is in the form of preferably regularly arranged n-sided ($n \geq 3$) pyramids, frusta of pyramids, cones or frusta of cones.

8. A method for fabricating a light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 1,
characterized in that
- a light-generating layer [(20)] and thereafter a relatively thick and transparent current-spreading layer [(30)] are deposited on a substrate [(10)] and the back of said substrate is provided with a first electrical contact layer,
- vertical structuring [(40)] to improve the decoupling of light is produced in the surface of said current-spreading layer,
- a second electrical contact layer [(50)] having the desired lateral structure is deposited on the structured top surface of said current-spreading layer [(30)].

9. The method for fabricating a light-emitting diode [(100)] as described in claim 1,
characterized in that
- a light-generating layer [(20)] and thereafter a relatively thick and transparent current-spreading layer [(30)] are deposited on a substrate [(10)] and the back of said substrate is provided with a first electrical contact layer,
- a second electrical contact layer [(50)] having the desired lateral structure is deposited on the top surface of said current-spreading layer [(30)], and

- vertical structuring [(40)] to improve the decoupling of light is produced in the top surface of said current-spreading layer [(30)] outside the areas of said second electrical contact layer.--

In the abstract:

-- Structured-surface light-emitting diode [with improved current coupling in a light emitting diode (100)] having a light generating layer [(20)] and a relatively thick, transparent current-spreading layer [(30)], vertical structuring of the top surface of the current-spreading layer [(30)] serves to improve the decoupling of light, while at the same time, a second electrical contact layer [(50)] with a distributed, lateral structure operates to achieve substantially uniform coupling of electrical current into the current-spreading layer [(30)]. --